[0058] The polymerase chain reaction after reverse transcription (rt-PCR) was used to detect pKe#83-specific mRNA in cells (NHEK) of keratinocyte sheets after dispase treatment and in HaCaT cells. To this end, RNA was isolated from cells of keratinocyte sheets after dispase treatment and incubation for various intervals of time, and from HaCaT cells using standard methods (guanidinium-thiocyanate-phenol-chloroform extraction method) and rewritten to cDNA according to standard methods. This cDNA was subjected to a PCR, during which a partial fragment of 388 kb was amplified from the pKe#83-specific cDNA. A combination of the primers „pKe#83-forward 10" (^{1032}GAATAGACCAGAGATGAAAAGGCAG^{1056})(SEQ ID NO:9) and „pKe#83-reverse 17" (^{1418}CGGTTCAGCAGCTCATACC^{1399})(SEQ ID NO:10) was used as the primer pair. 10 ng of cDNA were mixed with 10 mmM of primer along with a mixture of heat-stable DNA polymerase, ATP, TTP, GTP, CTP and polymerase buffer (e.g., compare: *Current protocols in Molecular Biology*, Vol. 1, 1997, John Wiley & Sons. Inc, Suppl. 37, Chapter 15), in this example in the form of the commercially available, ready-to-use „PCR master mix" from Clontech. In addition, the following control tests were performed: 1. The batch described above with the plasmid pUEX-1/pKe#83 instead of the cDNA („positive control"); 2. The reaction batch described above without added cDNA („negative control"); 3. The batch described above with GAPDH-specific primers (#302047, stratagenes; „GAPDH control").

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **amend** claims 1-22 as follows:

1. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide,

which is functionally identical to a protein that occurs naturally in human epidermal keratinocytes and which is upwardly adjusted, specifically increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state characterized by an elevated expression of the activation markers uPA and uPA-R, and